

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OCON, AS

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE

REACTION OF DELEGATES FROM AMERICAN AREAS.

REF: CANBERRA 5959

1. LABATT MET AFTER CONFERENCE FINISHED NOVEMBER 1.
WITH STEFFANY OF AMERICAN SAMOA, GUERRERO AND INGENITO
OF GUAM, AND BORJA, DOMINICK AND WHITE OF MICRONESIA.

2. ALL EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT CONFERENCE HAD
GIVEN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDS. EARLIER IN WEEK MOST HAD
EXPRESSED TO LABATT SOME CONFUSION OVER REASON WHY
AUSTRALIA HAD CALLED CONFERENCE; ALTHOUGH ALL AGREED
THAT THEIR LOCATION DICTATED THEIR INCLUSION IN LIST
OF INVITEES. AT END OF CONFERENCE IT WAS THEIR
CONSENSUS THAT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ARE SEEKING
TO TAKE UP SLACK CAUSED BY DIMINISHING BRITISH ROLE
IN AREA.

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3. GUAM DELEGATES REPORTED ENJOYABLE AND POLITICALLY PROFITABLE EXPERIENCE, BUT CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE LEARNED VERY MUCH FROM DISCUSSIONS ABOUT METHODS IN MANPOWER FIELD. THEY ARE WEDDED TO AMERICAN SYSTEM OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. THEY FEEL THEIR TRAINING NEEDS ARE WELL MET THROUGH US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (USDOL) OVERSEAS PROGRAMS.

4. AMERICAN SAMOA DELEGATE, WHO MADE ONLY SLIGHT CONTRIBUTION TO PROCEEDINGS, EXPRESSED REAL INTEREST IN TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED TO CONFERENCE. DELEGATE NOT THOROUGHLY INFORMED ABOUT AMERICAN PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO SAMOA.

5. MICRONESIA DELEGATES, ON OTHER HAND, SEEMED UNAWARE AT ALL OF USDOL TRAINING FACILITIES, AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THEY DO NOT EXIST IN THEIR AREA. IN VIEW OF THIS, THEY CLAIM THEY EAGERLY LOOK FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH CONFERENCE EFFORTS TO SUPPLY TRAINING; AND INDEED, THEY WOULD LOOK "EVEN TO JAPAN" AS MORE RELEVANT THAN US TO THEIR SITUATION IN PACIFIC AREA.

6. AT END OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, INGENITO OF GUAM EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT MICRONESIA'S REACTION AND SUGGESTED THAT REGION 9 OF USDOL, BASED IN SAN FRANCISCO, SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF MICRONESIAN SITUATION. COMMENT: LABATT CANNOT UNDERSTAND MICRONESIAN SITUATION EITHER; AND FEELS THIS AREA MAY NOT QUALIFY FOR US LABOR ASSISTANCE. PERHAPS END-USERS OF THIS REPORT COULD INVESTIGATE AND INFORM MICRONESIA OF TRUE SITUATION.

7. COMMENT: DELEGATES FROM AMERICAN AREAS OF INTEREST, PARTICULARLY GUAM AND MICRONESIA, TOOK ACTIVE PART IN ALL DISCUSSIONS ON AGENDA. GUAM WAS ABLE TO RESOLVE SEVERAL CONFERENCE DILEMMAS ON COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE; ALTHOUGH THEY WERE UNHAPPY THAT NO BINDING RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED. INCIDENTAL TO INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GUAM, LABATT REPORTS THEY ARE VERY CONCERNED WITH WORKFORCE DIFFICULTIES ARISING OUT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GUAM'S MIGRATION POLICY; A SITUATION OBVIOUSLY WELL KNOWN TO END-USERS.
FLUKER

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